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Family of McNell Fails in Attempt To Block Autopsy

AUGUSTA, Maine, Aug. 27 (UPI) — The body of Dennis McNell was exhumed from a western Maine cemetery today and an autopsy conducted to determine if the man whose brothers forced the resignation of a CIA spymaster died a violent death.

A lawyer for the family tried to block the exhumation and autopsy, but lost two court battles, the second one before the chief justice of the Maine Supreme Court.

The body was quickly exhumed from the Forest Hills Cemetery in Bridgton and taken to a hospital in Augusta.

Doctors began the autopsy at the Kennebec Valley Medical Center shortly after Supreme Court Chief Justice Vincent L. McKusick rejected pleas to stop the procedure.

Officials at the hospital said there would be no statement on the autopsy results tonight and said they were not certain when the results would be announced.

McNell, 41, was the younger brother of Samuel and Thomas McNell, who disappeared last month when The Washington Post published their allegations that former CIA deputy director Max Hugel engaged in improper stock dealings.

Hugel, a New Hampshire businessman, denied the allegations but resigned his high-level government job. STAT